



OUIK Newsletter

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Celebrating Achievements in 2016

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Warmest greetings at the start of a new year! For OUIK, 2016 was a year of partnership and of great progress. Since 2015, OUIK has incorporated the concept of biocultural diversity to our activities, which takes a holistic view of the reciprocal effects between human activity and nature. Through this concept we have pondered the sustainability of *satoyama and satoumi* landscapes¹ in the Noto Peninsula and Mt. Hakusan area, as well as linkages between nature and urban culture in Kanazawa. Kanazawa Biodiversity Strategy, formulated by Kanazawa City in fiscal 2015, reflects this work in that it aims to sustainably utilize the city's cultural and natural resources in an integrated manner. For example, it lays out plans for key projects such as "Citizen-based nature watchers" to promote civic involvement in ecosystem management and eco-tours for studying nature and culture linkage. OUIK partnered with the city in organizing a session on biocultural regions at the academic conference of the UCCN² Annual Meeting, held in Sweden in September. There we joined our research partners in presenting our activities in Kanazawa to the international community.



Mount Hakusan Biosphere Reserve (BR) received official approval to add transition areas at the ICC³ of the MAB⁴ Programme in March 2016, drawing attention to its various initiatives in sustainable community development. In May we invited a representative from UNESCO's MAB Networking Section to symposiums: one in Hakusan City celebrating the extension and the other at UNU Centre in Tokyo commemorating our publication of a new booklet on the BR. We also worked to build multi-stakeholder platforms for advancing discussion on sustainable community development; for example, using a UNESCO activities grant, in July/October, we invited MAB representatives/BR practitioners from Asian countries to UNU Centre/Mount Hakusan BR.

Five years after the designation of Noto's Satoyama and Satoumi as a GIAHS⁵ site in 2011, OUIK took part in revising the action plan. In May we held a 5th Anniversary Symposium to spread the word to local community members about the new action plan. The fourth and fifth sessions in the series of Satoumi Lectures, which began in 2015 in partnership with Noto's nine municipalities, were taken place in 2016. Through talks by local community leaders and outside experts, we could deepen the conversation on sustainable management of satoumi resources. The outcomes of these events were compiled as a booklet of Noto Satoumi Movement in October.

¹ Also referred as socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes(SEPLS)

² UNESCO Creative Cities Network

³ International Coordinating Council

⁴ Man and the Biosphere

⁵ Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems

Such collaborations with diverse stakeholders bore rich fruit in the form of the 1st Asian Conference on Biocultural Diversity (BCD) in October organized by UNESCO, SCBD,⁶ Ishikawa Prefecture, Nanao City, and UNU. The conference gathered some 500 people from 40 countries and was allowed us to reaffirm the important connection between Asia's rich biodiversity and cultures. The outcomes were summarized in the Ishikawa Declaration, a commitment to preserving these resources for the next generation. I would like to reiterate my heartfelt gratitude to everyone in the community who helped make this event possible.

We promulgated the Ishikawa Declaration at COP13⁷ held in December in Cancun, Mexico. At the convention, we also presented educational exchange initiatives in Ishikawa that draw on our GIAHS and BR designations, calling on the international community to step up collaborative study with communities who have been working to protect biocultural diversity for sustainable use.

In 2017, OUIK will continue to support local efforts to implement the principles articulated in the Ishikawa Declaration by linking them with international and UN agendas.

2016 Highlights

●1st Asian Conference on Biocultural Diversity

Nanao City, October 27-29, 2016

Following the first European conference on BCD held in Italy in 2014, OUIK, in collaboration with Ishikawa Pref., arranged the 1st Asian Conference on BCD with UNESCO and SCBD, which are advancing the Joint Programme on the Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity.

The international conference welcomed for a diverse exchange among 500 attendees, including practitioners and experts; high school and undergraduate students; and others from 40 countries. On the first day, participants shared practices and local policies on biocultural diversity, not just in Asia but across the world, through three thematic meetings, a poster session, and an experts meeting. The second day included reports from the youth session and on practical efforts in Ishikawa, as well as discussions on the importance of biocultural diversity and strategies for future action from various perspectives.

The outcomes of these discussion were summarized in the 2016 Ishikawa Declaration on Biocultural Diversity, which was



Thematic meeting 2 of the conference



Youth session (students from high schools in Ishikawa/ in Thai and a Russian university)



High school students reporting on the outcomes of their workshops at the conference



Holding up the signed Ishikawa Declaration

⁶ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

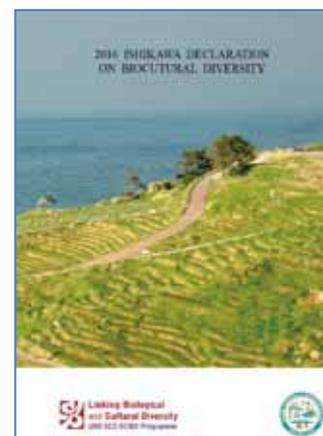
⁷ The 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

adopted amidst applause from the attendees upon signing by the CBD Executive Secretary Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences Flavia Schlegel, Ishikawa Governor Masanori Tanimoto, Nanao Mayor Toyokazu Fushima, UNU-IAS Senior Visiting Professor Kazuhiko Takeuchi, and OUIK Director Tsunao Watanabe.

● 2016 Ishikawa Declaration on Biocultural Diversity

OUIK published a pamphlet to promote the 2016 Ishikawa Declaration on Biocultural Diversity.

The declaration comprises thirteen statements and an annex. The statements affirm the value of biocultural diversity while stressing the important role of local communities and international partnerships. The annex lists 29 action policies spanning the fields of Education, Capacity Development, and Knowledge Sharing; Traditional Knowledge; Belief Systems and Cultural Values; Economy and Local Livelihoods; Governance and Institutions; Partnerships and Networks; and Land Use/Management.



● COP 13 to the Convention on Biological Diversity

Cancun, Mexico, December 4-17, 2016

UNU promoted the Ishikawa Declaration as an outcome of the 1st Asian Conference of BCD at COP 13, held in Mexico. First, UNU-IAS Senior Visiting Professor Kazuhiko Takeuchi, when attending Working Group 1 meeting held on December 5 as Special Representative of UNU Rector, made a statement on the 1st Asian Conference of BCD and its outcomes to an audience. He stated that Ishikawa serves as an important platform to create synergies between international designation systems such as GIAHS and BRs, and that such movements to utilize local resources linked to biocultural diversity can contribute to both local revitalization and the actions toward Aichi Targets. The full text of his speech is available on the SCBD website (<https://www.cbd.int/cop/cop-13/hls/statements/statement-United-Nations-University-final-en.pdf>).

Additionally, at the high level session of the forum titled "Summit Muchtanbal on Indigenous Experience: Traditional Knowledge and Biological and Cultural Diversity," held from October 9 through 11, OUIK Director Watanabe presented the Ishikawa Declaration. He stressed especially how important it is to develop capacities for sustainable use of biocultural diversity, to efficiently implement international designation systems, and to maintain platforms that spark dialogues and partnerships for mainstreaming biocultural diversity into sustainable development. He also reported that OUIK and Ishikawa are working together on efficient operation of the GIAHS and BR toward achieving the Aichi Targets by 2020.



OUIK Director Watanabe presenting the Ishikawa Declaration at the Muchtanbal Summit

In a case study session, OUIK Office Manager Mikiko Nagai delivered a report titled "Learning platform and educational tourism: Promoting and Strengthening links between Biological and Cultural Diversity". The presentation summarized a GIAHS international cooperation program held by Ishikawa Pref., as well as a training program for BR practitioners from the Asian region held inside Mount Hakusan BR in fiscal 2016. She also presented the Satoyama Tea Ceremony, an environmental learning event for children held by local community. It was proposed that such grassroots initiatives be combined with international educational exchange opportunities, and that, for Ishikawa to become a "living classroom on biocultural diversity", OUIK serve as a node by helping to create mechanisms that provide shared learning opportunities between Ishikawa and Asia.

In the same forum, a representative of the SCBD announced that, following the 1st Asian Conference, North American conference on BCD in 2018 is being considered by the American Museum of Natural History and its collaborators. Lastly, at the closing reception, OUIK joined Ishikawa Pref. staff in handing an Ishikawa Declaration pamphlet to CBD Executive Secretary Braulio F. de Souza Dias and thanking him for participating in the international conference. Dr. Dias said that he was deeply impressed that ecologically harmonious traditional cultures are still strong in Ishikawa.



At the COP13 venue: Dr. Dias holding the Ishikawa Declaration (third from the right)

Collaborations with Local and International Communities

●GIAHS Noto's Satoyama and Satoumi 5th Anniversary Symposium

Nanao City, May 23, 2016

Five years after the GIAHS designation, OUIK and joined participants reflected on past achievements and discussed the site's future based on a newly revised action plan.

Following guest remarks from Ishikawa Deputy Governor Hiroyasu Takenaka and MAFF Hokuriku Regional Agricultural Administration Office Vice Director Takuji Kashiwabara, Kazuhiko Takeuchi, then Senior Vice-Rector of UNU, delivered a keynote speech in which he spoke on events leading up to the 2011 designation and on the future outlook of GIAHS-based community development.



Panel discussion at the anniversary symposium

The new action plan lists sustainable livelihoods in primary industry; the transmission of traditional technical cultures; and conservation of biodiversity and cultural landscapes as three key objectives, the realization of which will require involvement from numerous practitioners. In the panel discussion, panelists representing an array of fields including agriculture, tourism, and city planning discussed strategies for making further progress in sustainable community development.

●Noto's Satoumi Lecture Series (4th and 5th Sessions)

OUIK jointly held with Hakui City and Noto Town the fourth and fifth sessions, respectively, of the Noto's Satoumi Lecture Series begun in fiscal 2015.

■ 4th Session: Hakui City's Blue Tourism: Experiential Tourism for Learning about Satoumi Conservation and Livelihoods (July 9, Hakui City)

This lecture used eco-tourism in Japan's Seto Inland Sea as a case study for contemplating the future of Hakui City's unique experiential tourism through Chirihama Beach conservation and use of natural resources such as wild oysters.

■ 5th Session: The Role of Local Rivers Linking Satoyama and Satoumi (Sept. 17, Noto Town)



Panel discussion at the fourth session in Hakui city

Shedding light on the role of rivers that link satoyama with satoumi, this lecture introduced the Machino River's biodiversity and examples of its use, including *hinezushi*, a fermented sushi dish prepared from river-caught sweetfish and enjoyed at autumn festivals. It reaffirmed the rivers roles played in local environments and their links to local lifestyles and livelihoods that have valued their services.

● Academic Conference at the UCCN 10th Annual Meeting

Östersund, Sweden, September 12, 2016

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) annual meeting was held in Östersund, Sweden, in September. When the 2015 annual meeting was held in Kanazawa, OUIK organized an academic symposium in conjunction with the main event. Keeping with the same form, this time Mid Sweden University organized an academic conference on sustainable development and Creative Cities. OUIK hosted a session at the conference titled, "Ishikawa-Kanazawa Biocultural Region: Local platform by different sectors and academic network fostering creativity," in which OUIK and research partners jointly presented the findings of their academic activities in Kanazawa.



(From left) Dr Iida (OUIK), Prof. Shikida (JAIST), Prof. Sasaki (Doshisha Univ.), Officer from Mid Sweden Univ., Ms Nagai (OUIK), Prof. Uchida (Saitama Univ.)

● Collaborations with Mount Hakusan BR

When registered as a BR in 1980, the Mt. Hakusan area was partitioned into core areas to protect ecosystems and buffer zones to support academic research and educational activities. Mount Hakusan BR Council, formed in 2014 at the initiative of the local communities, applied in 2015 for extension of these zones and the addition of transition area for carrying out sustainable socio-economic activities. The extension was approved in March 2016 at the 28th Session of the ICC of the MAB Programme. This raised expectations of multi-stakeholder involvement in sustainable development of the region. OUIK has supported the council's activities through international networking and other efforts. As part of this work, OUIK published in collaboration with local stakeholders "Mount Hakusan Biosphere Reserve: Creating a new path for communities and nature." The booklet offers a comprehensive understanding of Mount Hakusan BR and activities related to biocultural diversity, and is intended for use as an educational material, suitable even in international exchange settings.



UNESCO officials and Japanese representatives after the extension approval (photo: Mount Hakusan BR Council)

In conjunction with the booklet's publication, OUIK held an international symposium at UNU Centre on May 11 titled, "Learning for Biocultural Diversity: UNESCO's Biosphere Reserves". Noëline Raondry Rakotoarisoa, MAB Networking Section Chief in UNESCO's Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences, was invited to join a discussion on the future of collaboration between local and global networks for conserving and passing on biocultural diversity. Prior to the event, Dr. Rakotoarisoa was invited for a tour of various conservation and resource use projects in Mount Hakusan BR, as well as an extension commemorative symposium jointly held with Hakusan City on May 10 and attended by the mayors of the seven municipalities composing the BR.



Dr. Rakotoarisoa presenting the BR programme at UNU Centre

OUIK also attended the 4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves, where it presented on the synergies between GIAHS and BRs, citing Ishikawa as a case study, and on the potential for collaborative study of mountain regions with serving Mount Hakusan BR as a study field.



At the 4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves

Human Resources Development

●Field Study on Sustainable Development Goals in Kanazawa City

Kanazawa City, July 11-15, 2016

Since adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the UN General Assembly in September 2015, various initiatives to implement the SDGs have been unfolding in Japan. OUIK partnered with Kanazawa University to have a field study on the sustainability of Kanazawa City, focusing on the four themes of energy and waste, water, primary industry, and education as an entry point to understand seventeen goals.

Foreign exchange students from Kanazawa University and students from UNU's master's and doctoral programs participated. After touring the city's historic-cultural landscapes and related facilities and communities, they presented their findings while contrasting them with their own research themes and policy challenges in their own countries.



Students holding up completion certificates after their presentation (photo: Aida Mammadova)

●Training for Practitioners from Asia's BRs

Shibuya, Tokyo, July 25-26, and Hakusan City & Other Sites in Mount Hakusan BR, October 22-29, 2016

OUIK and Mount Hakusan BR Council co-organized a multi-stakeholder program with financial support from an Official Development Assistance Grant for UNESCO activities in fiscal 2016. At a symposium in July, participants shared information on implementation of the newly adopted Lima Action Plan in South Korea, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, and Japan, while affirming the importance of concrete actions by local communities and representatives of sites in the Japanese Biosphere Reserves Network. In October, we held a training program for Asia BR practitioners. Using Mount Hakusan BR booklet as an example, we showed how local information on BR features and biocultural diversity can be



Training participants from Asia and Dr. Schlegel (back row, fourth from right)

mation on BR features and biocultural diversity can be compiled; trainees then shared examples of BR management across Asia. The trainees were also visited to Mount Hakusan BR excursion and discussed local issues. UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences Dr Schlegel also joined the workshop.

Outcomes of the program were reported in a parallel session of the 1st Asian Conference on BCD, where an appeal was made on the importance of educational exchange between local practitioners. Trainees gave poster presentations on their BRs and contributed to the discussion on biocultural conservation and use.

●GIAHS Study Tour for Government Officials from Laos and Myanmar

Kanazawa City, Noto Region, November 13-18, 2016

As part of its international contribution as a GIAHS site host, Ishikawa Pref. has been taking in trainees from developing countries which are seeking GIAHS designation. OUIK has provided lectures on GIAHS concepts and the application process as a trainee educator.

This year, three trainees from Laos and Myanmar participated. In the course of training, OUIK described the GIAHS program introducing examples of designated sites and accompanied trainees on a Noto region tour. We also assisted to facilitate the outcome sharing session, which was held in the course of training.



Trainees asking questions about community tourism at Shunran no Sato, a farm stay accommodation in Noto Town

● Supporting Secondary Education from a Global Perspective

The year 2016 brought many new opportunities for interacting with high school and university students. OUIK helped foster the next generation by co-organizing a SDGs-themed workshop with Komatsu Summer School, a liberal arts program for high school students taught by Japanese and American university students. In Izumigaoka High School's Super Global High School program, OUIK served as an advisor for a training event at UNU Centre and various other trainings. And at Nanao High School, we served as a judge in the school events such as Satoyama Satoumi Business Plan Contest and the final presentation event of its Ishikawa New Super High School program.

These connections led to Izumigaoka and Nanao high school students' participation in the Youth Session of the 1st Asian Conference of BCD. In the closing plenary session, the students announced, on behalf of their generation, their commitments to carrying on Ishikawa's biocultural diversity. We hope to continue this active collaboration with high school and university students to help ensure sustainable community initiatives.



Students of Izumigaoka High school attending lecture at UNU Centre by Prof. Nagao (UNU-IAS) on poverty issue in Africa

Publications

- OUIK Biocultural Diversity Series #2 Mount Hakusan Biosphere Reserve: Creating a new path for communities and nature (May 2016)
- Kanazawa Biodiversity Strategy: Policy Brief (Sep. 2016)
- OUIK Biocultural Diversity Series #3 Noto Satoumi Movement: Passing on wisdom of living with the sea (Oct. 2016)
- Abstract Book of 1st Asian Conference on Biocultural Diversity Thematic meetings and Poster Presentations (Oct. 2016)



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What is new?

- **Launched a new website!**

For more information, please visit our website : www.ouik.unu.edu

- **Join us in welcoming our new staffs!**

Juan Pastor Ivars



Juan is from Denia, Spain. After receiving an MA in architecture from Polytechnic University of Valencia, he has worked for six years in a government organization in Spain. Then back to the above university, he received a PhD in architecture with a focus on Japanese gardens. After undertaking diverse internships and provided part-time assistance in Japan, at OUIK as a research associate, he is promoting his research in light of architecture, urbanism and landscape ecology.

Satomi Kubo



Before joining UNU-IAS as an administrative assistant for OUIK, Satomi worked at an international logistics and transportation company in Tokyo as an export clerk and arranged overseas shipments for seven years, and also experienced accounting and administration as an assistant. Prior to that, she worked at Narita airport as a ground staff of JAL. Satomi holds a BA in faculty of foreign studies from Kansai Gaidai University.

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